

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising:

meta-data described by definitions that each publisher providing said electronic article defines differently;

meta-data loading means for absorbing said different definitions and loading each of said meta-data;

a database established by storing data loaded by said meta-data loading means;

search means for searching through said database;

link information display means for displaying link information to said electronic article indicated by said meta-data; and

access means for accessing to said indicated electronic article.

2. A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is an article bibliography or an article subscriber of said electronic article and link information indicating a place where its original article is placed electronically.

3. A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1, further comprising a subscription master in which subscriber's additional information is stored wherein said search means comprises access right authorization means for authorizing a subscriber's access right based on information from said subscription master.

4. A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 3, said search means further comprising billing means for billing a subscriber based on information from said subscription master when a search is executed.

5. A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is described by using the Generalized Markup Language or Extensible Mark-up Language.

6. A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is provided by each of said publishers over said computer network or through an auxiliary memory medium.

7. A method for electronic article search and supply

services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising the steps of:

loading each of said meta-data described by definitions that each publisher providing said electronic article defines differently by absorbing said different definitions;

storing data loaded by said meta-data loading step in a database;

providing search means for searching through said database; and

obtaining said electronic article based on link information indicated by said meta-data.

8. A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is an article bibliography or an article subscriber of said electronic article and link information indicating a place where its original article is placed electronically.

9. A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7, further comprising the step of storing subscriber's additional information in a subscription master, wherein said search means comprises access right authorization means for authorizing a

subscriber's access right based on information from said subscription master.

10. A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 9, said search means further comprising billing means for billing a subscriber based on information from said subscription master when a search is executed.

11. A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is described by using the Generalized Markup Language or Extensible Mark-up Language.

12. A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is provided by each of said publishers over said computer network or through an auxiliary memory medium.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176